



**Testimony of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Presented to Planning & Development Committee  
of the Connecticut General Assembly  
February 23, 2009**

**HB-5526 AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* the intent of **HB-5526, An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions**, but urges full repeal of this law.

Although well intentioned, the mandate requiring towns to use in-school suspension to discipline students for all but the most egregious violations imposes a costly burden on small towns, which must make space available and hire additional staff to monitor students in in-school suspension. In addition, it undermines the ability of towns to develop disciplinary standards that make sense for their schools and their community. This legislation appears to have been passed in response to a handful of communities with high out-of-school suspension rates. However, there is no evidence that in-school suspensions are more effective in disciplining students than out-of-school suspensions. At a time when towns are bracing themselves for additional cuts in state education aid, it makes sense to repeal this costly mandate.